



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

May 6, 2019

The Honorable John Thune
United States Senate
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

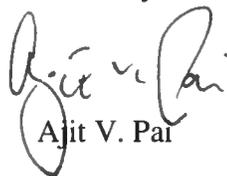
Dear Senator Thune:

Thank you for your letter on the “rate floor” rule in the Universal Service Fund’s high-cost program. The last Administration’s rate floor arbitrarily raised prices paid by rural consumers—mandating higher rates for those who can least afford them, like low-income seniors, veterans, and those living on Tribal lands.

When I became Chairman, I was determined to reexamine this perverse policy. So in 2017, we put in place a two-year freeze of the rate floor. And we asked the public whether we should eliminate the rate floor altogether. The feedback we got overwhelmingly favored consigning the rate floor rule to the ash heap of history. And, during last month’s Open Commission Meeting, the Commission unanimously voted to get rid of it. I consider this a big win for rural Americans—we repealed a *de facto* federal government mandate that increased rates paid by rural Americans.

I appreciate your interest in this matter, and please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai

P.S. Senator, really appreciate your longstanding advocacy in getting rid of this requirement once and for all!



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

May 6, 2019

The Honorable Jerry Moran
United States Senate
521 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

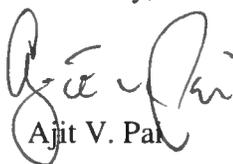
Dear Senator Moran:

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I appreciate your interest in this matter, and please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Ajit V. Pai

P.S. Senator, thanks for your longstanding advocacy for repealing this requirement once and for all - consumers across our state will benefit!